



TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE:

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District Governor Message,

I am very happy to announce our District Governor Nominee Designate(DGND) is Zachary S Covington, from the Franklin Rotary Club. A complete bio for Zach can be found later in this newsletter. Please join me in offering a huge congratulations to Zach and warm wishes for your training and preparation to become District Governor in 2024-25.

In March, Rotary focuses on Water and Sanitation and celebrate our commitment to create healthier communities. Learn more about the importance of this theme on the Foundation page of this newsletter.

Also this month the United Nations observe March 22nd as World Water Day, to highlight the importance of fresh water. The day is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

With the tragic circumstances unfolding before our eyes, our thoughts are with the people affected by the war in Ukraine. Rotary is made up of People of Action and I wish to call your attention to two ways you can help respond to the deepening refugee crisis. RI Past President and Foundation Trustee Chair John Germ has announced that The Rotary Foundation Trustees have decided to prioritize contributions made to the Disaster Response Fund until 30 April 2022 to support disaster response grants for districts affected by these events. These expedited disaster response grants can be used to supply water, food, medicine, shelter, and clothing.

The second way is through your support to The Shelter Box Program. You will find a letter providing an update and inspiring information from Dave Sturrock, a ShelterBox Ambassador for Rotary District 7280 as well as an announcement and request directly from The Shelter Box Organization. Please review these carefully and find a way to support this tremendous humanitarian effort on the world stage.

Now in its third year, the Feed 10 Million Initiative is part of Rotary Zone 33-34's simple and straight forward mission to feed 10 million people. Many of us support this initiative in the past and continue by supporting food banks or possibly working soup kitchens or meal programs in your area. Please be reminded to report your clubs effort on the Zone website at: <https://www.rizoness33-34.org/feed10million-initiative/>

In this issue you will also find opportunities to support other clubs in our District through their events and fundraisers. Please remember to send me information on your clubs upcoming events as well.

Thank you once again for your service and commitment to Rotary,

DG Rick

ZACHARY S. COVINGTON
DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2024-2025
DISTRICT 7280 | ZONE 33 | CLUB 5138
EMAIL: ZC7280@GMAIL.COM



Zachary earned a B.S. Ed. in Music Education from Clarion University of Pennsylvania, concentration in voice, and a Master of Arts degree in Choral Conducting from Indiana University of PA (ABT). He has studied voice with Dr. John McLean, Mr. Milutin Lazich, Dr. Robert McIver, Ms. Mary Catherine Dykhouse, and Ms. Sari Gruber. He has also received additional training in vocal technique, music education, and choral conducting from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. Zachary has taught vocal and general music to grades Preschool through 12, as well as post-baccalaureate and continuing education classes in music education. Most recently he was the adjunct professor of music for Penn State Greater Allegheny Campus, and plans to return to this position once reinstated following the COVID pandemic. He remains an active Guest Conductor for choral festivals throughout the region and the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association.

Mr. Covington is a member of several state, regional, and national professional music & arts organizations. He has performed and presented at state and national conferences and is a Past President of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 3. He owns and operates Covington Performing Arts Studio in Clarion, PA and is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Clarion County Festival Choir, which completed International Performance Tours of Italy in June 2012, Paris and London in July 2014, Austria & Germany in 2018, including Salzburg, Vienna, and Munich. His Festival Choir will be performing in Dublin, Cork, and Killarney during a June 2023 performance tour of the country of Ireland. His private students have included Miss America Scholarship Pageant winners, Broadway performers, and university music scholarship recipients. Zachary is also an active baritone performer in the Western Pennsylvania region.

As an advocate for inclusion and equality, Mr. Covington uses his connections in the music and creative arts communities to empower youth to embrace who they are as an individual. He works with community leaders, educators, and volunteers to encourage creativity and acceptance for all individuals. Zachary is passionate about volunteer service in the community, and is Past-President, Secretary, Peacebuilder Chair, and Youth Exchange Officer of the Franklin Rotary International Club 5138, as well as the Peacebuilder Chair for Rotary District 7280.

Mr. Covington is the Director of the Clarion Community Choir and also enjoys directing and performing musical theater productions. Zachary is a certified judge through the Miss America Organization. He is currently the Director of Music Ensembles at Penn State Greater Allegheny and is the Executive Director of the Barrow-Civic Theatre in Franklin, PA. He resides in Clarion, PA with his black lab, Friederich George.



Zachary Covington
District 7280 Peacebuilder Chair
Franklin Rotary Club #5138
March 2022

Peaceful greetings!

I've been doing a lot of research lately into motivating and empowering authors and poets. I'm not sure if it's because I can really use some motivation myself, or if it's because it's a new year and I have a goal to do my best to empower others. I suppose it's a little of both, but nonetheless, I have enjoyed my time diving into literature that both encourages me to become a better person, and I also find nuggets of wisdom that I can use to encourage those around me.

I recently stumbled upon Dr. Ross Gay, currently a professor of English and Poetry at Indiana University, Bloomington. Ross is from Levittown, Pennsylvania, and received two of his 3 college degrees from universities in PA. What first drew me to do a little digging on Dr. Gay were 3 things:

- 1-He's from Pennsylvania,
- 2-He has received grant funding from the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts. The nonprofit I run also receives support from PCA each year, and
- 3-One of his New York Times Bestsellers books is entitled "The Book of Delights," so I just had to check that out!

I also knew it was a sign to do even more digging when I turned the calendar in my office to February, and the following Dr. Ross Gay quote was staring back at me:

It is not at all puzzling to me that joy is possible in the midst of difficulty.

Ross's website says this about him:

Ross Gay is interested in joy.
Ross Gay wants to understand joy.
Ross Gay is curious about joy.
Ross Gay studies joy.
Something like that.

What a novel idea...to be interested in joy! To try to understand joy. To be curious about an emotion that is the most healthy for the human mind and soul!

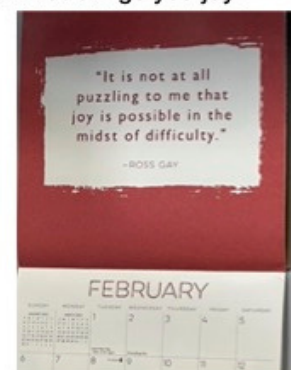
As Rotarians, we have much to be joyful about. As humans who have just experienced some very dark times, I assure you, "...joy is possible in the midst of difficulty." Take some time to embrace what brings you joy. Share that joy with your clubs, and with your community.

What's the most recent thing your club has done to elevate peace and spread joy?

PEACE IS POSSIBLE!

ZC

executivedirector@barrowtheatre.com





register here!

1ST ANNUAL GROVE CITY ROTARY DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER



APRIL 30

**\$45/player
or \$140/team**

Register by April 1st for
\$10 Early Bird Discount at:
www.discgolfscene.com

REGISTER TODAY!
Lets Have Fun!

Price includes:

- Tournament
- Lunch
- Cool T-Shirt



PLEASE SUPPORT GROVE CITY ROTARY'S 1ST ANNUAL DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER



BUY AN EVENT T-SHIRT

The tournament proceeds will benefit Grove City Rotary and Grove City Memorial Park. With part of the proceeds, we're planning on outfitting each disc golf hole with a cement tee pad.

\$25

\$15 IF RECEIVED BY APRIL 1

ADD \$5 FOR SHIPPING

**ALL TOURNAMENT PLAYERS RECEIVE AN
EVENT T-SHIRT WITH PAID REGISTRATION**

Specify Size with Order!

**Send payment via PayPal to:
rotaryclubofgrovecity@gmail.com**

**Mail check payable to: Grove City Rotary
P.O. Box 692 Grove City, PA 16127**



MARCH IS WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

Clean water is a basic need for human beings. When people, especially children, have access to clean water, they live healthier and more productive lives. However, at least 3,000 children die each day from diseases caused by unsafe water. While very few people die of thirst, millions die from preventable waterborne diseases, providing the impetus to also improve sanitation facilities. This is accomplished by providing toilets and latrines that flush into a sewer or safe enclosure and then add education programs to promote hand-washing and other good hygiene habits.

When we talk about the need for clean water and sanitation, our immediate thoughts go to those who live in underdeveloped countries around the world, but there are communities in our own Zone that have a real need for clean water. During the month of March, or anytime throughout the year, we are encouraged to explore where we can help to provide access to safe drinking water.

Clubs can raise the awareness of the need for clean water by hosting a "Walk for Water". More information on the need for clean water, as well on how to host a "Walk for Water" can be found by going to <https://watermission.org>.

DISTRICT 7280 FOUNDATION UPDATE

	2021 - 2022	2020 - 2021	
Annual Program Fund Giving Year to Date:	\$92,253.75	\$92,088.80	
Total Contributions	\$142,379.79	\$133,408.84	
Annual Fund per Capita Giving Year to Date:	\$75.06	\$70.35	
Total Clubs with contributions to the Annual Fund	35 of 42 (83.33%)	37 of 43 (86.05%)	
Clubs that have greater than \$100.00 per capita giving to the annual fund:			
Cranberry Township	\$406.57	Zelienople	\$146.05
Sharon	\$216.89	Greenville	\$137.11
New Wilmington	\$185.83	Keystone	\$130.68
Port Allegany	\$153.93	Slippery Rock	\$120.86
Clarion	\$153.85	Kittanning	\$117.37
Bradford	\$150.00	Smethport	\$108.33

Ken Fleeson, District 7280 Foundation Chair
kfleeson@lectromat.com
 724-355-1619



Hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing Ukraine – and they urgently need help.

On February 24, 2022, Russia launched a military operation on Ukraine, creating a devastating humanitarian crisis.

This latest escalation in military action comes after eight years of ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine, which resulted in significant humanitarian needs prior to the invasion. Humanitarian needs will continue to grow at an alarming pace as the crisis continues.

We are already seeing significant civilian casualties and damage to local infrastructure. In recent days, hundreds of homes have been damaged or destroyed in Ukraine. Innocent civilians are being killed, families and lives are being torn apart.

As military activities continue and missile strikes rock the country, people are on the move, desperately trying to find safety.

According to the UN, hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing the country.

- They are predicting as many as 12 million people may need humanitarian assistance
- Four million refugees as a result of this crisis.
- More than 660,000 people have already fled Ukraine into neighboring countries.

Others are sheltering where they can, in places like metro stations. The situation is developing rapidly, and **the death toll is rising.**

As hundreds of thousands of people flee towards western Ukraine and neighboring countries, we anticipate a desperate need for food, water, and shelter.

Greetings from Dave Sturrock, a **ShelterBox Ambassador** for Rotary District 7280.

I would like to share a few updates from ShelterBox that will amaze and hopefully inspire you. For 21 years ShelterBox has been helping families who have lost everything in a disaster and since 2000 Rotary is ShelterBox's Disaster Relief Partner.

I wanted to report back on our recent 'Shine for ShelterBox' event. The largest previous such event in the US raised about \$5,000. Knowing the generosity of our district members, we set our goal at \$10,000. I am pleased to report that we blew that away and **we raised just over \$20,000 for ShelterBox relief!! Is that amazing, or what?**

And that effort also contributed to 11 new [Rotary HERO](#) awards to clubs in our district.

What does this mean? With your support, in 2021 ShelterBox was able to help 140,000 people in twelve countries. Helping children stay together with their parents in a stable environment lets the families begin to rebuild their lives and communities.

I feel, as Rotary clubs become more aware of ShelterBox, the clubs do more. There is still a huge unmet need – on average 1500 people are displaced from their homes every hour! Let's work together to do more.

- **My goal is to acknowledge 7 new HERO awards in the 5 months remaining this fiscal year. Can I count on you?**
- **I'd really love to acknowledge our district's first [Gold HERO award](#). Can your club be the first to reach that \$5K threshold?**
- **We need some club ShelterBox Champions who can build local support and events. We would be happy to support a volunteer from your club.**

I would be pleased to arrange an in-person or virtual presentation at your club meeting. Or if your leadership just needs a bit more information, I'm happy to host a call where I can answer your questions.

Or you can do your own research starting here: <https://my.rotary.org/en/shelterbox-and-rotary> and here: <https://www.shelterboxusa.org/>.

Thank you,
Dave



Dave Sturrock
ShelterBox Ambassador
Mobile: 724-991-4750
dtsturrock@gmail.com



The Tamburitians

Sunday, March 27, 2022 - 3:00 pm

Lincoln High School

501 Crescent Ave- Ellwood City, PA

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ellwood City

Scholarship Fund

Adult Reserved \$25 in advance/ \$30 at the door

Students \$15

For tickets: [Ellwoodtams.eventbrite.com](https://ellwoodtams.eventbrite.com) or at the

Ellwood City Library on

March 12 from 10 am - 1 pm &

March 18 from 10 am to 4 pm

Questions? Call 412-974-6465

WELCOME NEW ROTARIANS!

Rotarians welcomed during February 2022

Clarion

Aaron Peters

Cranberry Township

Robin Vukic

Erie

Dr. Dale Pehrsson

Gus Pine

Portersville-Prospect

Arianna Afshari

Ryan Senft

Rotary



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Rotary District 7280 Calendar

March 2022 - Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month

March 5, 2022	TriDistrict PETS (President Elect Training Seminar), State College, PA
March 14-18, 2022	World Rotaract Week
March 31, 2022	Preregistration discount ends for the R I Convention

April 2022 - Maternal and Child Health Month

April 23, 2022	District Assembly
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May 2022 - Youth Service Month

May 13-15, 2022	District 7280 Conference, Clarion, PA
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June 2022 - Rotary Fellowship Month

June 4-8, 2022	Rotary International Convention, Houston Texas, USA
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October 2022 - Rotary Fellowship Month

October 22, 2022	Fall District Workshop
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2023

January 8-12, 2023	Rotary International Assembly
May 12-14, 2023	District 7280 Conference
May 27-31, 2023	Rotary International Convention(Australia)